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Report sheds light on fatal 2014 Back Bay blaze that killed two firefighters. 2



DANNY PICARD ON GRONK

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SPRING ARTS GUIDE

'Younger' star Sutton Foster, Company One Theatre's Summer L. Williams and more culturally cool names to know this spring. 9-23

LAURA MARIE DUNCAN



APPLE 'RAISED TECHNOLOGICAL BARRIERS'

The U.S. Justice Department on Thursday said Apple Inc's (AAPL.O) rhetoric was "false" in a high-profile fight over the government's bid to unlock an encrypted iPhone belonging to one of the San Bernardino shooters. Last month, the Federal Bureau of Investigation obtained a court order requiring Apple to write new software and take other measures to disable passcode protection and allow access to shooter Rizwan Farook's iPhone. Apple has not complied. It said the government request would create a "back door" to phones that could be abused by criminals and governments, and that Congress has not given the Justice Department legal authority to make such a demand. Apple has also attacked the FBI investigation as "shoddy" and portrayed itself as "the primary guardian of Americans' privacy," federal prosecutors said in a court filing on Thursday. [REUTERS](#)



ISLAMIC STATE DEFECTOR LEAKS SUPPORTERS

2 A disillusioned former member of Islamic State has passed a stolen memory stick of documents identifying 22,000 supporters in over 50 countries to a British journalist, a leak that could help the West target Islamist fighters planning attacks. Leaks of such detailed information about Islamic State are rare and give Britain's spies a potential trove of data that could help unmask militants who have threatened more attacks like those that killed 130 people in Paris last November. A man calling himself Abu Hamed, a former member of Islamic State who became disillusioned with its leaders, passed the files to Britain's Sky News on a memory stick he said he had stolen from the head of the group's internal security force. On it were enrollment forms containing the names of Islamic State supporters and of their relatives, telephone numbers, and other details such as the subjects' areas of expertise and who had recommended them. [REUTERS](#)

'DRAFT RYAN' GROUP HALTED BY PAUL RYAN

3 House Speaker Paul Ryan's political operation sent a cease-and-desist letter Thursday to a group that is trying to draft him as a Republican presidential candidate, urging it to halt its activities and warning of legal risk. With establishment Republicans desperately searching for a way to stop real estate businessman and former reality TV personality Donald Trump's march toward the nomination for the Nov. 8 presidential election, Ryan's name has been mentioned as an alternative. But he has said he does not want to run for president this year and has disavowed the Committee to Draft Speaker Ryan group. The organization has continued attempts to collect 1 million signatures on an online petition to draft Ryan, arguing that the very definition of a draft movement is to encourage a reluctant participant to join. [REUTERS](#)



First-responders rush to help firefighter Michael Kennedy following a fire in a Back Bay brownstone March 26, 2014. ALL PHOTOS NICOLAUS CZARNECKI, METRO

Back Bay fire fueled by 'perfect storm for tragedy'

Reports chronicle circumstances of 2014 blaze that killed two Boston first-responders.



SPENCER BUELL
@MetroBOS
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It was a "perfect storm for tragedy."

That's how Boston Fire Commissioner Joseph Finn described the events of March 26, 2014, when a wind-fueled fire in a Back Bay brownstone claimed the lives of two first-responders and injured 13 others.

Finn spoke to reporters Thursday following the release of accounts of how the flames spread on that exceptionally windy day, how first-responders with little time to think jumped to ac-

tion, and how firefighter Michael Kennedy, 33, and Lt. Edward Walsh, 43, died after they were trapped inside after rushing in to help.

A report from the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health described how doors left ajar that day let too much air flow through the Beacon Street building, fanning the flames.

It told how there were too few hydrants on a private side street, how the aging structure was not fitted with sprinklers, how staffing was inadequate for the response and how dangers like accelerants in a cabinet went unnoticed.

"Delayed notification to the fire department" was also a factor in the day's tragic outcome, the NIOSH report said.

Firefighters' hoses did not hold up in the



intense heat inside the residence, killing water pressure and rendering them useless, the report said.

The NIOSH report recommends the department adopt new firefighting strategies for assessing how risky a fire is when first-responders arrive.

The Boston Fire Department also released its own review of the day's events, which describes how the building's outdated construc-

"The wind and the fact that this fire was undetectable for some time are two key contributing factors to this fire. People were literally blown off their feet."

Boston Fire Commissioner Joseph Finn

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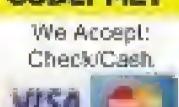
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Billerica Chipotle reopens after norovirus reports

Chain again serving burritos after employees call out sick with norovirus

 SPENCER BUELL
@MetroBOS
spencer.buell@metroweekend.com

Employees were prepping burrito ingredients again at the Chipotle in Billerica on Thursday as the Mexican chain readied to reopen its doors.

It's a typical weekday routine, but one put on hold for two days this week after employees in the restaurant reported they'd come down with

a case of norovirus, the contagious ailment that sickened more than 100 at the Chipotle in Cleveland Circle last year.

The chain has been especially cautious about foodborne illness wrought by the bad press in Boston, which also came after an unrelated outbreak of E. Coli in more than a dozen states.

Media were again pointing cameras at the restaurant Thursday as the pre-lunch prep work stretched past the restaurant's 11 a.m. opening, as reported by The Lowell Sun's Rick

Sobey, who tweeted just after 11:15: "When will #BurritoWatch finally come to an end?"

Chipotle was handing out free burrito coupons to customers who came by Thursday morning due to the delayed opening. 12:30 p.m., Sobey also tweeted.

The restaurant planned to reopen after receiving the all-clear from health inspectors on Wednesday, a spokesman said in a statement, adding that it also passed a health inspection with a score of 100 percent on March 3, before the norovirus incident put the



A Chipotle Mexican Grill planned to reopen after the all-clear from health inspectors. GETTY IMAGES

location in the spotlight.

"The health department was impressed by Chipotle: our paid sick leave policy, our procedures for excellent sanitation, and our proactive approach to making certain that no one worked while sick. We look forward to opening," read the statement, emailed

to Metro by company spokesman Chris Arnold.

Chipotle told media this week the temporary closure would come with an intense cleaning of the restaurant — it also said none of the four ill employees reported for work and that no customers reported being made sick by the

fast-food fare.

Another Billerica building was also dealing with a norovirus scare this week: Billerica High. After one student reported being sick, a cleaning regimen followed. The school stayed open, and attendance was at normal levels, according to the Sun.

Saudi man gets jail for extorting Danvers teen into online sexual acts

A Saudi man was sentenced to two and a half years in jail after admitting to extorting a Danvers girl into performing online sexual acts by threatening to release naked pictures of her.

Abdulrahim Altalhi was sentenced in Salem Superior Court on Wednesday after pleading guilty to charges of disseminating child pornography, posing a child in the nude, child enticement and

electronic child enticement, the Salem News reported.

Altalhi was convicted of posing as a teen girl in order to coerce the victim into sending him explicit photos that he, in turn, sent to her family when she refused to meet his demands, WCVB stated in a related article.

Over a span of three months, Altalhi, then a student in Indiana, used the social media app Kik

to demand that the teenage girl do his homework, engage in online sexual activity and place a posting on Craigslist advertising sexual services, the Salem News added.

A lawyer for Altalhi said his client's actions were due to a "cultural divide," according to WCVB.

Danvers police Detective Robert Sullivan was able to identify Altalhi after subpoena-

ing Internet records, the Salem News stated. Altalhi was then arrested last September when he was returning to college from a summer in Saudi Arabia.

Salem Superior Court Judge James Lang acknowledged that, after Altalhi completes his jail term, he will likely face deportation rather than serve his three-year probation sentence, the Salem News added.

JASON NUCKOLS

BRIEFS

Body pulled from Charles River
State police responded to a report of a body found in the Charles River Thursday.



Police have not identified the body, but said it is not the remains of Zachary Marr, the missing man from Harvard whose disappearance has prompted searches in the water in recent weeks, according to department spokesman David Procopio.

The body was described as that of "an adult male" who "may be a member of the homeless community," Procopio said in an email.

The state police marine and detectives units were able

to secure the remains after responding to a call from a woman who spotted the body while standing near the Arthur Fiedler statue, Procopio said. She called police at 12:29 p.m. Thursday afternoon, he said.

SPENCER BUELL

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RACE FOR THE WHITE HOUSE



TRUMP AT THE GATES

Lay into the drums, fire up the guitars and let the first riffs of Zeppelin's "Immigrant Song" rip across the land. By this time next week, the Republican nominating process could be a smoking ruin. The delegate count says Donald Trump's marauding hordes are already storming the walls of the Republican castle.

Sure a desperate surge by Ted Cruz might repel the attack. Or maybe twin charges by Marco Rubio in Florida (where he trails Trump) and John Kasich in Ohio could push the whole

fight to a contested convention, where the GOP gray hairs could throw a sack over Trump's head. But none of that looks likely now.

Instead, the New York billionaire is roaring from state to state, slaying his challengers and dragging their dead campaigns behind like Conan. (The barbarian, not the comedian. Well, OK, maybe both.) The brutal efficiency of his assaults has made the Republican Old Guard look less like worthy foes than a bunch of terrified villagers — cowering at the sound of hooves.

Many Democrats have surveyed the carnage across the aisle with great satisfaction and not a little schadenfreude. Not only have they enjoyed the supreme discomfort of Republican leaders, the situation has also given them something to focus on beyond their own front-runner's troubles. Yes, Hillary Clinton still seems to be dispatching the usually polite Bernie Sanders, but she is doing it so slowly even some of her

fans are worrying about her ability to match steel with the raging warrior of Fifth Avenue.

And they should worry. Trump is drawing in legions of new voters; battalions of angry folks who can fundamentally change the math of the general election. Remember in 2012, only about 62 percent of the people who could have voted in this country did so. If Trump is the candidate and he keeps tapping into the remaining 38 percent, watch out. The minority vote? Forget it. It matters, but the Dems had that sewed up last time and there is too little room for growth in this cycle. The base? Forget that too. The faithful are already onboard for the Dems. And don't even mention the polls showing how Trump might lose in the general. Trump has been smashing expectations like pottery.

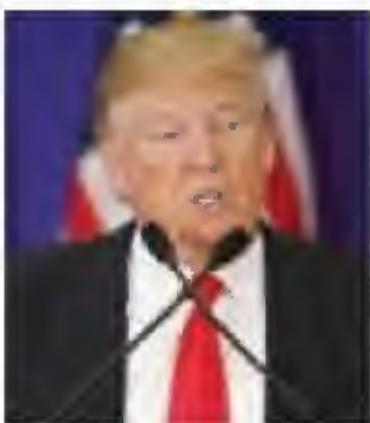
If this election keeps playing out as it has, the Democratic Party will almost certainly need reinforcements — new blood to carry the fight to a victory. The

TOM FOREMAN
Opinion

CNN's Tom Foreman is the author of the new book "My Year of Running Dangerously."



problem is, right now it looks like Trump is sharpening his sword and aching for the next battle to begin. Cue the Led Zep. Ah ah ah — ah.



Donald Trump: GETTY IMAGES

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'Hearts are in pieces' five years after tsunami hits Japan

Japan on Friday mourns the thousands who lost their lives in a massive earthquake and tsunami five years ago that turned towns to matchwood and triggered the world's worst nuclear disaster since Chernobyl in 1986.

The nine-magnitude quake struck offshore on a chilly Friday, sparking huge black waves along a vast swathe of coastline and killing nearly 20,000 people.

The tsunami crippled the Fukushima Dai-ichi Nuclear Plant, where meltdowns in three reactors spewed radiation over a wide area of the countryside, contaminating water, food and air.

More than 160,000 people were evacuated from nearby towns. Around 10 percent still live in temporary housing across Fukushima prefecture. Most have settled outside their

hometowns and have begun new lives.

Some areas remain no-go zones due to the high radiation.

In coastal Rikuzentakata, which was flattened by a wave as much as 56 feet high and lost seven percent of its population along with its entire downtown, the pain remains strong.

"Infrastructure is recovering, hearts are not. I thought time would take care of things," said Eiki Kumagai, a volunteer fireman who lost 51 colleagues, many killed as they guided others to safety.

"I keep seeing the faces of those who died ... There's so much regret, I can't express it."

Prime Minister Shinzo Abe and Emperor Akihito will offer flowers at a ceremony in Tokyo that will include a moment of silence at the time of the



Destroyed vehicles lie near the rubble after the earthquake and tsunami devastated the area on March 16, 2011, in Minamisanriku, Japan. GETTY IMAGES

quake, 2:46 p.m., when bells will ring in the city center and residents

across the nation bow their heads.

Japan, one of the world's most seismically active areas, will mark the day with prayers, anti-nuclear protests and graveside visits. All the trains on the vast Tokyo underground network will halt to mark the mo-

ment the quake struck.

Billions of dollars in government spending have helped stricken communities rise from the ruins, including elevating the earth to protect them from future waves and cleaning radiation-contaminated land, but much remains to be done for thousands still languishing in barracks-like temporary housing. REUTERS

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'Younger,' wiser and ready to dance

Sutton Foster dishes on her upcoming Boston Pops appearance and her well-guarded "Gilmore Girls" appearance.

RACHEL RACZKA
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On TV Land's "Younger," Sutton Foster plays Liza Miller, a recently divorced mom who decides to makeover herself as a 26-year-old millennial to snag a job in publishing. But in real life, the 40-year-old Tony-winning actress isn't hiding behind anything. With Carnegie Hall under her belt and her show's second season underway, the star called us from New York to talk about her upcoming appearance with the Boston Pops, her "Gilmore Girls" role and whether or not she's ready to break out her dancing shoes.

So the other week, Liza had the ultimate rebound when she ends up hooking up with her ex. What's that about?

Yeah, yeah, I went a little backwards [Laughs]. I think this season has been incredibly exciting because things are getting more complicated and the last two episodes [of the season] are huge. Liza is grappling with this relationship with Josh [Nico Tortorella] because I think it's more substantial than she realizes. The loss of that is causing her to do some crazy things, and in many ways probably more like the young person would act out.

One of the interesting things about the show is to see general millennial-labeled habits — like re-reading all of your ex's texts and then deleting them —

transcend ages.

I think those types of behaviors can apply to anyone. I've done that — especially in this day and age when it's your number one form of communication. Before you'd just put all the letters in a box and burn it. I had a few of those back in the day, but today it's all about wiping out and deleting.

Do you think it's Liza picking up on the habits of 20-somethings, or that it's just a natural reaction?

I think it's blurry because obviously this show is based on this idea of comparison, but ultimately everything is about people connecting and relationships despite age. Josh and Liza are connecting despite their age differences. And even Kelsey [Hilary Duff] and Liza — there's a genuine friendship there even though there's a lie there.

Soon you'll be appearing in the "Gilmore Girls" reboot — can you tell us anything about your character?

I'm afraid I'm going to get a lot of trouble. I've been sworn to a lot of secrecy. The creators really want to protect it [Laughs]. All I can say is that I shot one day, and I got to shoot in Stars Hollow and see Luke's Diner and [Miss] Patty's Dance Studio and I got to walk around and was like "ahhhhh!" — kind of freaking out. And I still have three more days to shoot. I'm just really honored to be included because that's my favorite show. To be in that world is such a "pinch me" moment. Like I was a super fan, and now all of a sudden I'm just part of it.

Are you Team Jess or Team Dean?

Always Team Jess! I always loved Jess. And I was going through some old

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journals and a photo of Milo floated out of it. I guess I had cut it out and put it in my journal. I was obsessed.

What can you tell us about your upcoming Boston Pops appearance?

I've been doing more symphony work, we just did four concerts with the Baltimore Symphony and last year I performed with the New York Pops and the National [Symphony Orchestra at the Kennedy Center]. I'm really excited. It'll be a combination of American songbook, Broadway stuff I've done on stage and some pop stuff that I love. It's amazing to be able to sing with 75 people playing behind you. I'm super excited about Boston.

We saw you on Instagram practicing your tap dancing with Nico for your Baltimore performances. Can we expect any sort of surprises like that in Boston?

Possibly! I haven't checked on Nico's availability yet, but we had such a good time in Baltimore that maybe I should shoot him a text and be like "Hey, what are you doing at the end of May?"

"Younger" airs on TV Land on Wednesday nights at 10 p.m.

spring arts guide

Tony-winning actress Sutton Foster stars in Darren Star's "Younger." TV LAND



The Pops' Keith Lockhart walks us through the season

Conductor Keith Lockhart's exciting upcoming season with the Boston Pops will feature the likes of "Family Guy" creator Seth MacFarlane, the pro cast of "So You Think You Can Dance" and "Dancing with the Stars," Brian Wilson's "Pet Sounds" and yes, two nights with the awesome Sutton Foster.

Seth asked to join the Pops
It took about two and a half years, but the "Ted" funny guy approached Lockhart about joining the esteemed ensemble for a guest appearance. "Seth MacFarlane initiated contact with us and said 'Why haven't you asked me to sing with the Boston Pops?'" says Lockhart. "He's from the area and we'll get a mention on 'Family Guy' every now and then."

MacFarlane will perform a catalog of American songbook classics, but Lockhart is hoping



Hello, maestra! MARLBOROUGH GROVE

he'll slip in some laughs, too. "We'll try to convince him to sing one song as Stewie," he adds.

Don't ask Lockhart for a dance-off

The conductor says he's most excited for the first week featuring performances by the casts of "Dancing with the Stars" and "So You Think You Can Dance."

"It's going to be very visually stimulating and unlike anything we've done before,"

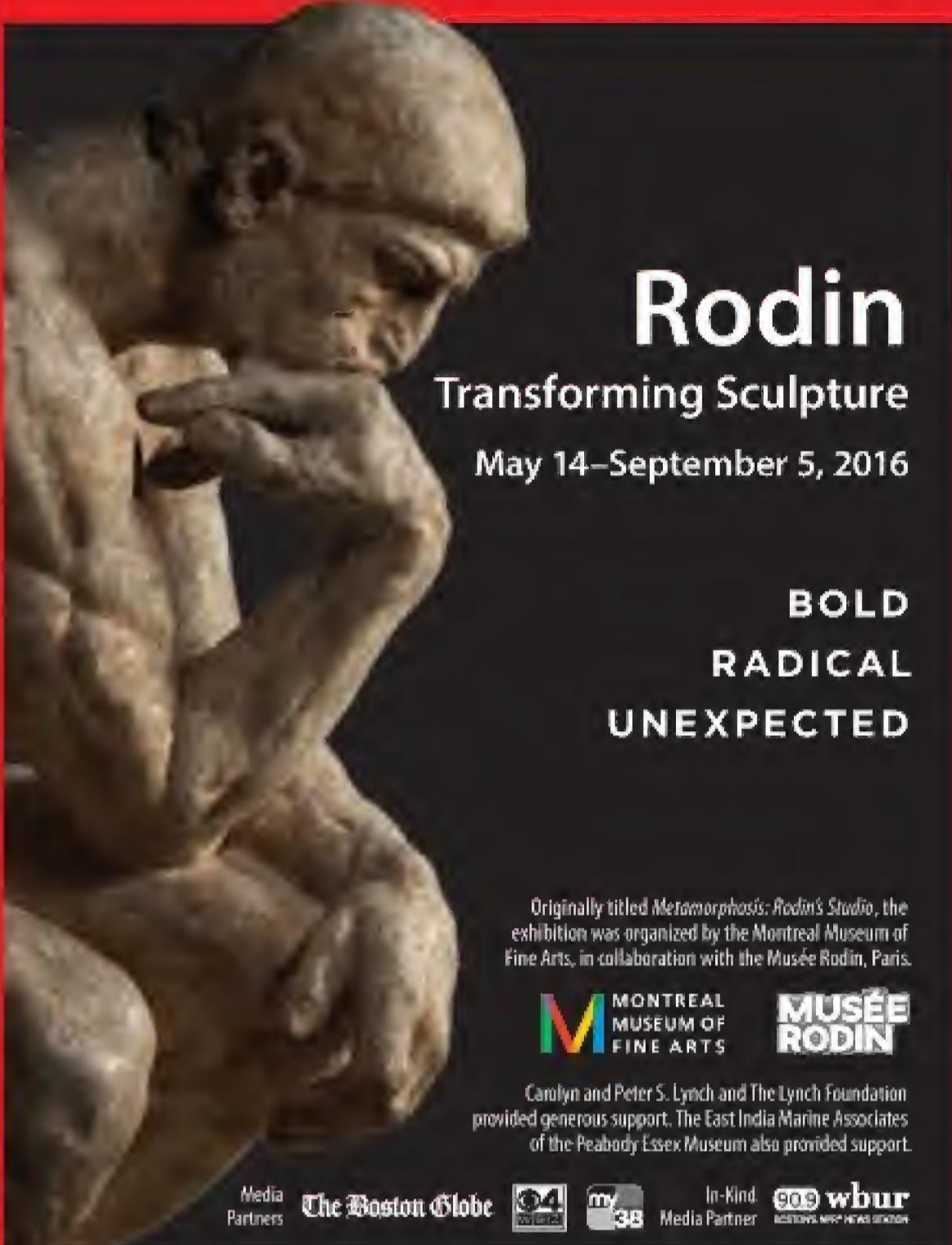
Lockhart says. But will he join in? "Only if I'm forced to," he laughs. "Ask my wife."

But maybe Sutton can sway him

"[Foster] is such a multi-talented performer and over the last few years her star has begun to shine even more brightly," says Lockhart. And while he couldn't confirm if she'll be strapping on her tap shoes, he knows there will be some dance involved. "We've been asked to make room for it."

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May 14–September 5, 2016

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Originally titled *Metamorphosis: Rodin's Studio*, the exhibition was organized by the Montreal Museum of Fine Arts, in collaboration with the Musée Rodin, Paris.



Carey and Peter S. Lynch and The Lynch Foundation provided generous support. The East India Marine Associates of the Peabody Essex Museum also provided support.

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Auguste Rodin, *The Thinker*, large-scale model (detail), 1903. Musée Rodin, Paris. Inv. S.761W. Photo © Musée Rodin. Photo by Christian Baraja.

A quick catch-up on Boston's public art

So ... what's next?



ALLYSON FLORIDIA
@MetroBOS
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As exciting advancements in public art become more and more intertwined with our city's DNA — from last summer's illuminated swings by Eric Höweler and J. Meejin Yoon at the Lawn on D to Janet Echelman's awe-inspiring aerial sculpture above the Rose Kennedy Greenway — we looked to the 2016 spring-summer program and some of its key players to see what's next.

Current works and community impact

Michael Nichols, the Greenway's chief of staff, describes Conservancy as "committed to temporary exhibits of contemporary art." This includes short-term and rotating exhibits like Lawrence Weiner's mural, "A Translation from One Language to Another" in Dewey Square and Matthew Hoffman's "May This Never End" series. Hoffman's bright yellow plastic letters set on a chain-link fence in the Greenway attempts to elicit emotions through words. The last phrase of the installation reads, "May this never end." The idea is that "the meaning behind each of those phrases is in the eye of whoever's reading it at the time. It's allowing the user to create their own art in reaction to how they look at it," Nichols explains. "It allows people to interact with the city."

Nichols shares that public art directly impacts the community, gaining attention from locals and visitors alike. "We've heard from people that Greenway public art changes their day. Whether they're walking through the park or eating or driving, the art the Greenway Conservancy has changes how they're feeling, gives them something to talk about with their friend or coworker or relative. This is one of our biggest goals. To make people think, to make people feel something they



Lawrence Weiner's mural in Dewey Square. GETTY

otherwise wouldn't have experienced by looking at a blank wall."

What to look for this year

The Greenway is in the midst of a 12-year rotating exhibition of the Chinese zodiac and is "paying tribute to the past and to the present," says Lucas Cowan, the Public Art curator for the Greenway. The first featured "Wandering Sheep," by Kyu Seok Oh. It was a set of 10 molded, handmade paper sculptures that sat on various platforms around Chinatown Park. The second year exhibit is to be installed in May, focusing on the zodiac monkey.

Nichols anticipates the major artwork of 2016 to be at Rings Fountain in the Wharf District Park. "I can't say much about it now, but it's by a world-renowned artist and it's probably going to be a big deal," Nichols tells us. This piece is to be installed in late April.

Creative City has selected nine artists for the 2016 season; among them are Lina Maria Giraldo, Wen-Ti Tsien and Cedric Douglas. Giraldo's project, "City Journalist," is a collection of images, video and audio of Egleston Square. Its final form is an interactive documentary piece with music and participation with Egleston Square stores. Giraldo's main artistic interests lie in experimenting, researching and incorporating technology in everyday life.

Tsien's two-part project titled "Home Town: Re-presenting Boston's Chinatown as Place of

People — Then and Now" uses two visual art forms: life-size cutout figures that are digitally reproduced from archived photos, and a photo-station with a background of historical storefronts. Tsien likes to incorporate the community, in this case, Chinatown, into his public art. Here, he's creating a collection of the past and present lives of Chinatown's inhabitants.

Douglas is the lead artist with Up Truck, a moving art piece that attempts to raise artistic curiosity in various communities. His public art piece is entitled "Up Walls: A Festival of Street Art." His goal, both in this work and in his others, is to empower local artists who want to create positive change in areas historically ignored by traditional arts funding.

Past exhibits are located in numerous neighborhoods including lower Allston, East Boston, Franklin Park, Hyde Square, Jamaica Plain and Egleston Square. The Lawn on D continues to be a location of public arts and the Greenway places art in various parks around Boston, including the North End Parks, the Wharf District Parks and the American Heritage Park.

Ann Wicks, the communications manager for the New England Foundation of the Arts (NEFA), which oversees the Creative City program, says "[There are] more [exhibits] to come in Roxbury, Chinatown [and] on the Orange Line of the T. Locations are still to be determined for some of the [other] projects."

PUBLIC

EVENT

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Theatre Nohgaku is an international performance group devoted to sharing the beauty of the classical Japanese noh drama with English-speaking audiences.

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MARCH 25

Noh Music Performance/Discussion
12:00 PM
College of Fine Arts
855 Commonwealth Avenue
Room 167

Movement Workshop
4:00 PM
College of Fine Arts
855 Commonwealth Avenue
Studio 109

SATURDAY,
MARCH 26

Lecture/Demo of Noh & Kyogen
Performance Styles
2:30 PM
CFA Concert Hall
855 Commonwealth Avenue

MONDAY,
MARCH 28

Playwriting Workshop
7:00 PM
Boston Playwrights' Theatre
949 Commonwealth Avenue

WEDNESDAY,
MARCH 30

Performance of *Sumida River* (Traditional)
and *Zahdi Dates and Poppies* (World
Premiere)
6:30 PM
Tsai Performance Center
685 Commonwealth Avenue

Trauma & the Arts Panel Discussion
Post-performance
Tsai Performance Center
685 Commonwealth Avenue

THURSDAY,
MARCH 31

Performance of *Sumida River* (Traditional)
and *Zahdi Dates and Poppies* (World
Premiere)
7:00 PM
Tsai Performance Center
685 Commonwealth Avenue

All events are free but require RSVP
Photo by David Sutkasky

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THEATRE-NOHGAKU



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Want to spend the night at the museum?

These institutes and cultural centers are opening their doors after hours.

REENA KARASIN
reena.karasin@metro.us

Looking for a fresh way to experience Boston's many cultural institutions? Check out these special events geared happening this spring.

Third Thursdays at the Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum

Enjoy music and a cash wine bar as you explore the courtyard garden and new wing at the Gardner. Artist talks and activities vary depending on the month. Upcoming themes include Celebrate Dance (March), Fashion Forward (April) and A New Light (May). Tickets are \$15.

First Fridays at the Museum of Fine Arts

Start off the weekend with signature cocktails and tapas at the MFA each month from now through June. Tickets are \$25, with food and drinks available for purchase.

Astronomy After Hours at the Museum of Science

In the mood for some stargazing? If the weather's good, you're in luck — the Museum of Science offers free access to the Gilliland Observatory every Friday night from the beginning of March through Thanksgiving.

First Fridays at the Institute of Contemporary Art

Every First Friday's differ-

ent at the ICA. March's "Forever Young" theme will offer DJ music and a game room alongside the Walid Raad exhibit, while April's event — which falls on April Fools' Day — includes a performance by Improv Asylum. May will bring a movie night, complete with popcorn and cocktails. Tickets are \$15.

First Fridays at SoWa Boston

Head to the South End and check out SoWa's many galleries, shops and restaurants on the first Friday of every month. Admission is free.

Glass Flowers Soiree at the Harvard Museum of Natural History

Check out the glass flowers exhibition and many more July 22, when the Harvard Museum of Natural History will open its doors and offer guests signature cocktails and music. Tickets are \$25.

History of German Beer & Beer Tasting at the Harvard Art Museums

On May 12, guests can learn about the history of German brewing and the ways in which drinking has appeared in artwork while enjoying included samples and snacks. Tickets are \$55.

Member events with The Metropolitans

Run by the Citi Performing Arts Center, The Metropolitans provides members opportunities to access many of the arts Boston has to offer, and also hosts numerous social events. Annual memberships are \$50.

Summer L. Williams on Boston's evolving theater scene

Company One Theatre co-founder Summer L. Williams' production of "BootyCandy" with SpeakEasy Stage Company opens at Roberts Theatre on March 12, following the run of her critically acclaimed "An Octoroon" with ARTSE-merson. She knows the show's title might put some people off, but she thinks you need to get over it.

"The audience needs to be prepared to check some of their expectations in order to understand what this play is saying and why it's saying it," Williams explains. "Plus, it's a ton of fun. And with a name like that, how can it not be?"

A shift in Boston's theater patrons

Williams says a show like "BootyCandy" may not have come to life a decade ago in the Boston theater scene, but through Company One, she's seen the arts industry and culture evolve to become more inclusive.

"It's exciting to see audiences that are willing to consume riskier new work," she says. "When [Company One] stepped into the game, we wanted to change the face of Boston theater — who was telling the stories on stage, and who was in the audience to receive them. I think we did that in a lot of ways and it's great to think that's more of the norm now than it was 10 or 15 years ago. It's neat to see an audience evolve because 10 years ago, I don't think something like ["Booty Candy"] would be happening, or it wouldn't be as well-received as it could be in the Boston we know now."

On doing back-to-back productions

"An Octoroon," a story about race and identity

"BOOTYCANDY" presented by SpeakEasy Stage Company

March 12 to April 9
Calderwood Pavilion at
the Boston Center for the
Arts
527 Tremont St.
www.speakeasystage.com

set in a 1859 plantation world, draws limited (though, some) parallels to "BootyCandy's" smart, funny, self-reflective story line about growing up gay and black. So how did Williams' move from one mind-set to the next so quickly in a calendar year?

"In a lot of ways, I was really, really excited to direct two wild plays back-to-back," she says. "I felt like if I can get through this in a clean, organized fashion and have them both at the same time, it would be really wild and cool. They're both pushing buttons in Boston in a lot of ways traditional theater here might not have before."

Always room for growth

Williams and Company One have grown to be fixtures in the Boston theater scene, but even after 16 seasons, she says she's always growing as a director.

"One thing I've been mindful of with both of these plays is what I [as a director] and the script are asking audiences to think about during a show," she explains. "Especially if a play is asking an audience to think about something they're not necessarily willing to think about. I've been doing a lot of introspective work around that and I'm really excited to see how it plays out."

RACHEL RACKA



John Kuntz, director Summer L. Williams, Maurice Emmanuel Parent and Jackie Davis during a "BootyCandy" rehearsal. GLENN PERRY PHOTOGRAPH

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Image: Walter Steiger. "Unicorn Tayss," Spring 2013. Courtesy of Walter Steiger. Photo: Jay Zukerkorn.



Killer Heels: The Art of the High-Heeled Shoe is organized by the Brooklyn Museum. The Currier's presentation of *Killer Heels: The Art of the High-Heeled Shoe* and the related educational programs are sponsored by: Barbara B. Putnam, Dwight & Susi Churchill, Hitchiner Manufacturing Company, The Duprey Companies, TD Bank and People's United Bank.

Crystal Manich is making opera accessible for everyone

Director's production of "Werther" opens at Boston Lyric Opera on March 11.

RACHEL RACZKA
@rachelraczka
rachel.raczka@metro.us

First things first: You're probably pronouncing "Werther" wrong.

"It's pronounced like Ver-ter," says Crystal Manich, director of the production for Boston Lyric Opera. The production opens March 11 and brings a Jules Massenet opera based on Goethe's "The Sorrows of Young Werther" to the Shubert stage.

Making opera for everyone

"I like to think of my-

self as a director who directs for people who don't usually go to the opera," says Manich. "I'm a theatrically-based director who is very passionate about the music and allow the music to form my staging and what I'm doing aesthetically. But I really like to define characters on stage in these operas and take their stories seriously."

For "Werther," the original Goethe story line has been updated to the late 1920s, and the Boston Lyric Opera production will broadcast English translations of the songs on high-definition TVs. "The music is there, but we're not caught up in a traditional operatic staging," she adds.



"Werther's" concept transcends time

"Werther" centers the main plot of an 18th century novel by German writer Johann Wolfgang von Goethe, in which a young artist pens an account of unrequited love with a woman named Charlotte before contemplating suicide.

"[The novel] was revo-

lutionary because it was expressing this inner torment through a series of letters Werther writes to his friend," Manich says. "Because of the text from the novel and the text used in the opera, there's a really strong sense of two people who meet at the wrong time and want to be together but cannot because of responsibilities and duties. There's a theme of unrequited love, and certainly a huge element of obsession."

The BLO production is not only updated to reflect the late 1920s, it also features a more modern set to put the audience inside Werther's tortured mind. "The set is very abstract so we can demonstrate the vague setting of psychological obsession."

Telling the story of a story

Manich tried to pay homage to Goethe's work by adding theatrical details to her production that might not show up in all operatic interpretations of the story. "Opera does a really good job of narrative," she says. "It's clear that what we're bringing from the book to the opera, like how obsessed he is with Charlotte, but we're extracting little details from the book that's not typically thought about in opera."

For example, the audience will see Werther's obsession reflected through his drawings, which will be projected during the show. Additionally, characters who are one-dimensional

Boston Lyric Opera's "Werther"

March 11 to 20
Shubert Theatre
265 Tremont St., Boston
(866) 348-9738
Starting at \$25,
citicenter.org

in the opera but multi-layered in the novel will be more accurately depicted. "Often Charlotte's husband is portrayed as stern and strict in the beginning, as though he has no soul, but in the book you can realize how sympathetic he can be," Manich explains. "We're going to be presenting a much more rounded version of the character in our show."

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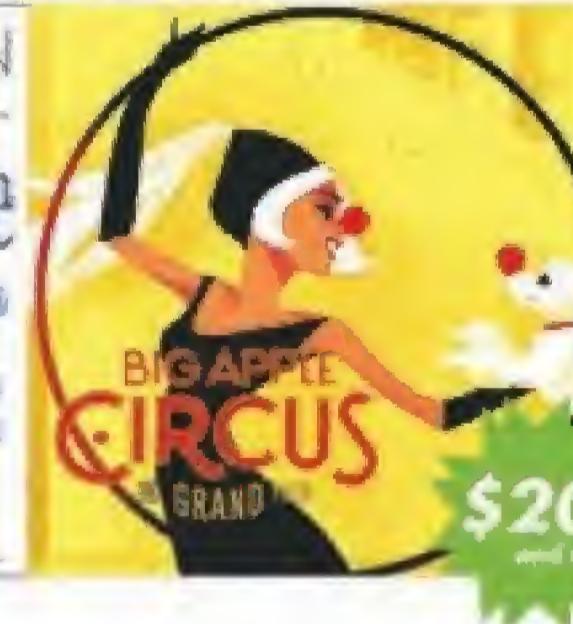
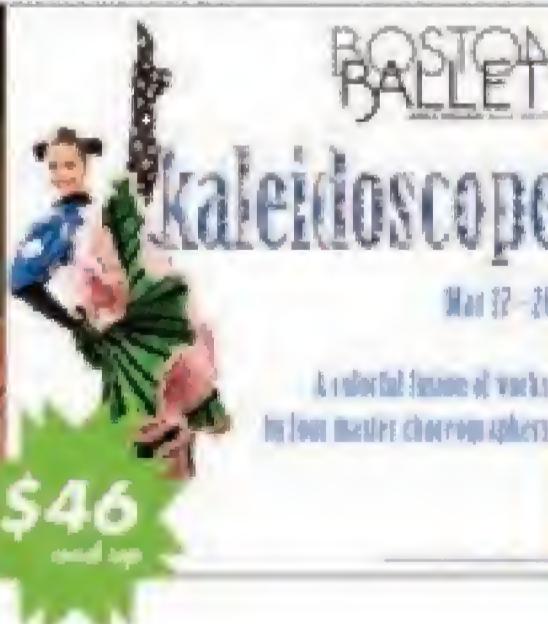
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March 24 - May 8

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Handel and Haydn Society
April 29 - May 1



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Anthrozoa cape and skirt, Voltage Collection (detail), 2013; Designed by Iris van Herpen and Neri Oxman; printed by Stratasys. RONALD STOOPS

Michelle Finamore on the MFA's world-expanding new show

Say #techstyle three times fast.



RACHEL RACZKA
@rachelraczka
rachel.raczka@metro.us

Technology and fashion are in focus at the Museum of Fine Arts Boston's new #techstyle exhibit. Fashion arts curator Michelle Finamore says the merge is a natural one, as technology is as seamlessly incorporated into our lives as the clothes we wear every day. "People are interacting with technology on an everyday basis today," she says. "No one leaves without their phones or computers. It's part of who we are and

it defines people in that regard."

The show features high-tech couture and ready-to-wear, including the incredible 3D-printed Kinematic Petals dress by Somerville's Nervous System (made in one shot!) and heat-, wind- and light-sensitive ink-coated capes by The Unseen's material alchemist, Lauren Bowker. It is open now through July 10.

When worlds collide

The show came together after Finamore and the Museum of Fine Arts took into account the multitudes of collabora-



#techstyle co-curators Michelle Finamore, Pamela Parnell and Lauren Whitley. PROVIDED

tions between the industries of tech and science and fashion. "There's a flowing of creativity between these worlds and it's amazing to see it happen," she says. "We're hoping we'd have the moment to exhibit this

and capture all of this energy between the two worlds."

The concept began with MIT assistant professor and designer Neri Oxman's 3D-print dress and grew to include pieces from the likes of

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#techstyle at
the Museum
of Fine Arts

March 6 to July 10
465 Huntington Ave.,
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(617) 267-9300

Image of Mary Katrantzou's "Expandit" dress, 2012. **ERIK MADIGAN HECK**

Alexander McQueen and
Hussein Chalayan.

Not quite opposites

If you think the posh fashion world isn't ready to welcome the nerdy industries of science and tech, this show might be the one to prove you dead wrong. At their cores, each field relies heavily on technique, possibly explaining why some fashion designers are so eager to hop on the opportunity to consult with like minds in a saturated industry.

"Designers are savvy and know this is the wave of the future," says Finamore. "They've created garments that are effective and cohesive, but they need to collaborate on the tech side to make them come to life. They know they're not trained to be coders or developers, but they're looking to those fields to learn to approach design from a new perspective."

**Fashion at
the museum**
Finamore says the

#techstyle exhibit is also representative of a broader movement on the museum front, putting fashion and apparel at center of shows and collections.

"More broadly in the museum world, museums are realizing that fashion is a draw," the curator says. "It's been really elevated in terms of being a discipline and appreciated as a form of art in and of itself. It's had an impact on what we're doing here and what we've put together."

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Theo Iyer, Allyn Burrows, Meredith Forlenza, Chris Henry Coffey and Tanya Fischer NILE HAWVER/NILE SCOTT SHOTS

Playing with fire

Huntington's new show is a nail-biter.

CHRIS LEO PALERMINO
@IndieCap
letters@metrou.us

How can a date night go so terribly wrong?

That's the question in Gina Gionfriddo's dark comedy "Can You Forgive Her?" which is loosely based on a true crime story. Miranda (Meredith Forlenza) is the devious protagonist who dates emotionally unavailable doctor David (Allyn Burrows) and another man, Sateesh (Theegan Iyer), to her heart's content. The arrangement goes well — at least until Sateesh threatens to kill her on Halloween night.

"She's the victim of her own mistakes," explains Gionfriddo. "The play is partly about understanding how you

get to be a person behaving that badly."

Characters in crisis

The playwright often gravitates toward characters grappling with their inner demons. Her most recent work, Pulitzer Prize-nominated "Rapture, Blister, Burn," and the latter "U.S. Drag" focus on relationships between women in dire straits.

"Like any writer, I'm interested in people's flaws and failings," she says. "To commit a crime is just kind of the worst case scenario."

An unlikable character

"If you have written a character who risks being unlikable, it certainly helps if you're casting someone who has qualities that are going to draw an audience in — whether

If you go

Huntington Theatre's "Can You Forgive Her?"
March 25 to April 24
Calderwood Pavilion
527 Tremont St., Boston
Starting at \$20,
huntingtontheatre.org

er it's charm, whether it's magnetism," says Gionfriddo on Forlenza.

A personal touch

At one point, a character named Graham (Chris Henry Coffey) is in the midst of deciding what to do with his deceased mother's writings.

Gionfriddo explains that she had to face a somewhat similar decision while clearing out her own work. "I was really thinking a lot about stuff and what we hold onto and what we let go."

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How Berklee helped build Goapele's career

The artist will perform at the Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum as part of RISE.

 RACHEL RACZKA
@rachelraczka
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Berklee School of Music graduate Goapele (born Goapele Mohlabane) will return to her collegiate stomping grounds for a performance at the Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum's RISE Music Series, curated by Shea Rose and Simone Scazzocchio, on March 31 at the museum's intimate concert cube, Calderwood Hall.

An educational immersion

Goapele came to Boston because she believed it was home to some of "the best musicians from all over the world."

"There are so many hole-in-the-wall places where people who are masters of their craft are just playing casually," she remembers. "Like Wally's [in the South End] — I miss that place. I think being around all of that all the time really forces you to up your game."

Just some old school chums



Goapele plays Calderwood Hall at the Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum on March 31. GETTY IMAGES

The artist says she decided to go to Berklee to gain experience working with musicians. "I would sing a capella or with the choir at community events, or over whatever the hottest hip-hop track was, but I wasn't comfortable or confident enough to perform with live musicians, especially my own original music," she tells us.

Goapele says she learned to turn journal entries into songs, some of which led to her first album, "Closer" in 2001. Plus, her fellow alumni continuously pop up in her professional career.

"I got to meet Jeff Bhasker, who just won producer and song of the year with Bruno Mars at the last Grammys, in a James Brown ensemble," she says. "We sat down and wrote many of the songs that ended up on

'Closer.' Then even with my last album, 'Strong as Glass,' I ended up hooking up with another former student and friend, Keith Harris, and we did five songs together."

Some friendly advice

When Goapele pursued music professionally, she started with an EP in the Bay Area and sold a few thousand before landing a distribution deal with Hieroglyphics. She says the industry has changed, but her advice to aspiring artist remains.

"For me, it's always important to make measures of your own success," she says. "Pick measures that don't have to do with the standards of the world around you. Make sure you know you're on your own path."

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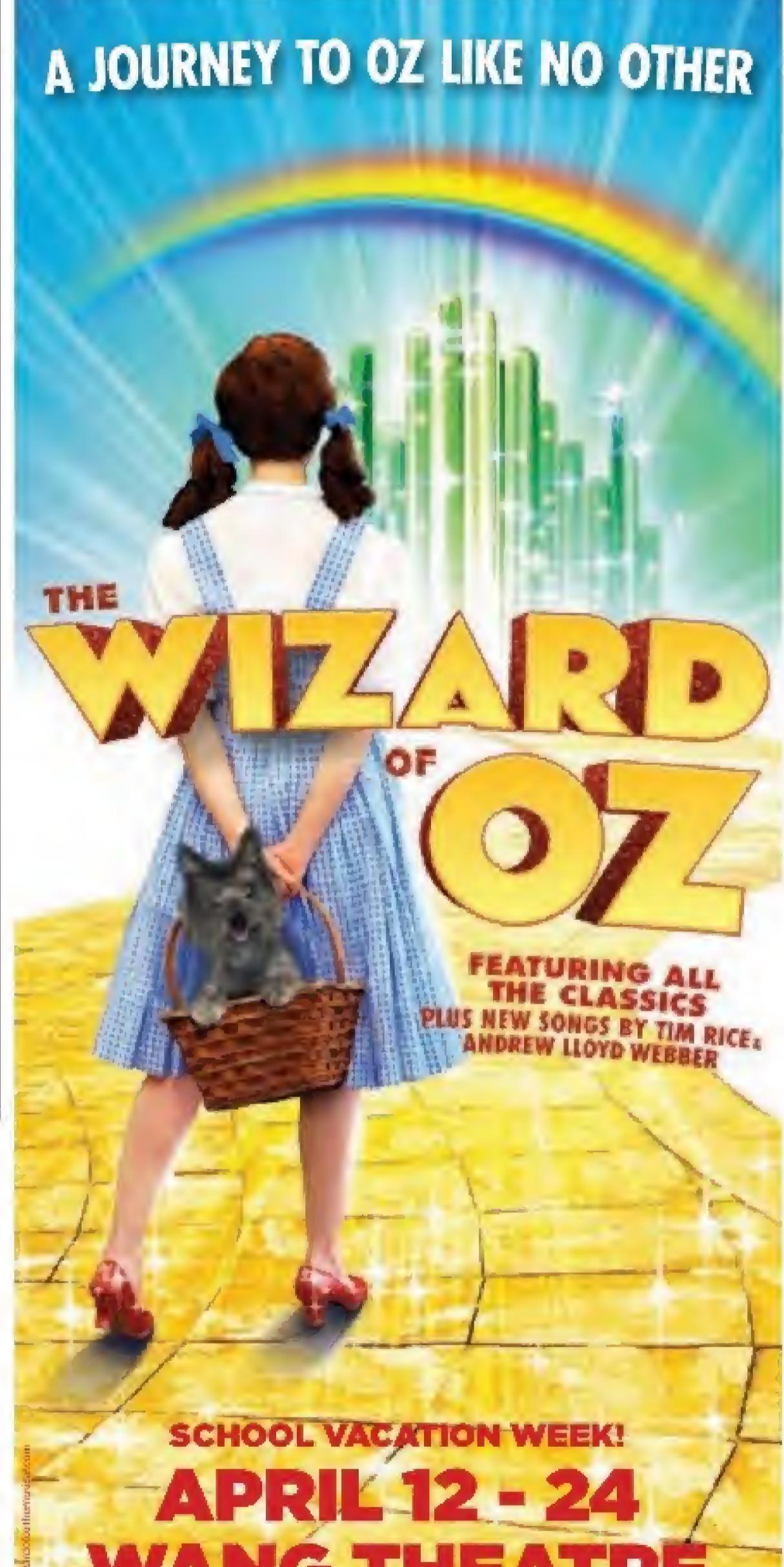
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Obehi Janice finds her

The actress will make her musical debut at the Oberon.

RACHEL RACZKA
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Obehi Janice is starring in the A.R.T.'s upcoming production of Young Jean Lee's one-woman show, "We're Gonna Die," at the Oberon opening in April. A versatile player, the Georgetown grad has spread social awareness (her YouTube short "Black Girl Yoga"), written and performed her own one-woman memoir about mental health ("Fufu and Oreos") and will now make her singing debut in this show directed by Company One Theatre co-founder, Shawn LaCount.

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Janice will star in the production of Young Jean Lee's one-woman show about life, loss and self-actualization. **JEREMY FRAGA**

Not a monologue

"We're Gonna Die" is

the brainchild of playwright Young Jean Lee who says she developed

(and then performed) the show out of fear. Janice explains Lee's

biggest fear was to act, so the terror of not only performing one's own

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(singing) voice

show, but also singing in it got the writer's creative juices flowing.

"I've been a huge fan of her work forever," says Janice. "Since I saw her 'Untitled Feminist Show' at a workshop and learned about this show in 2011. It became very important to me in discussing my own solo work and my voice as an artist."

The actress says "We're Gonna Die" explores the introspective ideas of loneliness and relationships and death, but isn't your typical one-character show. "I was taken back by how blunt [Lee's work] is and straightforward," Janice adds. "People tend to not enjoy solo shows because it's just people talking, but I feel like a member of a band and a curator of a series of events in this show."

Going solo

Janice will be the first

actress to tackle Lee's original role and like the original playwright, she'll also make her singing debut.

"I love singing, but it's not on my business card," she laughs. Janice worked with musical director Steve Sarro to prepare for the show and says has been eye-opening for her. "I'm learning so much about my vocal quality and range," she says. "We changed the key from the original because I'm the first person to perform this show besides her. It was originally freaking me out, but I had to let it go. Now it's just become this huge privilege to be able to make this show our own."

In good company

The actress says being part of Boston's Company One Theatre has changed her perspective on the industry and her

own career.

"Their mission is particularly clear, and that's for the stage to become a mirror for the city," she says. "As black female creator, it's a privilege to be able to have a company invest in me not just because I'm an actress of color but because they genuinely like me. They make me think a lot about casting and identity in a way that's forward thinking."

Janice adds that her ability to straddle such dramatically different ranges of productions (from ArtsEmerson's "An Octoroon" to "We're Gonna Die") has challenged her as an artist. "I've stretched so much as an actress and gained a lot of community through Company One. She notes, "Investing in local artists is really really huge and says a lot about your values as a company and institutions."

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Batman and Robin, 1966. Image provided by 20th Century Fox / The Kobal Collection at Art Resource, New York; Goldie Hawn in Rowan and Martin's Laugh-In, 1968-1973. Image provided by The Kobal Collection at Art Resource, New York; Salvador Dalí on What's My Line, CBS, January 27, 1952. © Fremantle Media

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Museum manor

The story of Somerville's mysterious Museum of Modern Renaissance.

REENA KARASIN
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Amid a row of residential buildings in Somerville sits the Museum of Modern Renaissance, an A-frame house with an arched gate and colorful murals covering practically every exposed inch, inside and out. But this is no museum in the conventional sense — it's the home of Russian artists Nicholas Shaplyko and Ekaterina Sorokina, and soon it may be a National Historic Landmark.

Virtually every surface of the Museum of Modern Renaissance is covered with their artwork, from the front hall that they call the "Parade of Planets" to their workroom that doubles as an indoor garden in winter to the teapot-themed bathroom. The married couple collaborates on every piece, and works from scratch without sketches in the style that they deem "magical realism." They've even created some of the furniture — when asked where he learned furniture making, Shaplyko responded, "I didn't learn, just did it."

The artists call their home a museum in the



Museum homeowners Nicholas Shaplyko and Ekaterina Sorokina. JOEL BENAMIN

Ancient Greek sense of the word: a house where muses, or forces of inspiration, are living. Shaplyko, quoting a book that he and his wife co-authored — one of six — succinctly describes the "Modern Renaissance" name as, "The first renaissance brought beauty and humanity back to society, and we think it's time to do it again."

A rich history

The Museum of Modern Renaissance, located at 115 College Ave. near Davis Square, was originally a Unitarian Church before it became a Masonic Lodge and ultimately, in 2002, Sorokina and Shaplyko's home.

In 1920, Paramahansa Yogananda traveled from India to Somerville, where he delivered a speech for the International Congress of Religious Liberals at the Unitarian Church. As Yogananda is widely considered to have precipitated the spread of yoga in the West, Shaplyko and Sorokina are applying for the building to be a National Historic Landmark in honor of the guru, and ultimately hope for it to be a World Heritage site.

The couple, who greatly value self-realization and harmony, consider their ideals in line with those of Yogananda.

"All the art is talking and making the harmony,



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CALL SUMMARY

ArtSpace Maynard invites artists in all media (except video) to submit proposals for one month solo or group exhibitions for the 2016-2017 season. The proposed exhibit should be based on a unifying concept that is social, historical, philosophical, cultural, political or other. The ArtSpace Gallery is one of the largest nonprofit exhibition spaces in Massachusetts. Preference will be given to New England artists.

Online submissions through <http://artspacemaynard.com/proposals>

Deadline: May 18, 2016



Inside the Museum: Visit Metro.us for a photo tour. JOEL BENAMIN

and trying to achieve this pure, ideal harmony. That's the goal of all real art," Shaplyko says.

The artists explain that they are spiritual, but not religious, noting that religion is an "institution" and wrapped up in making money. As proponents of harmony, they denounce the violence prevalent in modern entertainment and enjoy not having a TV.

"If something important happened outside, our friends would call us," Shaplyko says.

In the land of opportunity

Shaplyko came to the United States in 1992 to showcase the couple's art in Boston. Here he met then-mayor Raymond Flynn, who took a liking to their work. The artists, who then did not know English, received their

Your night at the Museum

March 19 at 7 p.m.
115 College Ave., Somerville
RSVP shaplyko@gmail.com
\$35 donation including a book of your choice; \$100 includes a front row seat and two books.

green cards and came to Boston with just \$20.

"This country is all about immigrants," Shaplyko says. "This is a cliche like 'American Dream,' basically, to create from nothing, to create something, this is a dream. Here is a place where the dream can come true."

Art imitating life, or life imitating art

Shaplyko and Sorokina open their house to the

public a few times a year, offering a space for classical music, opera and yoga. Their next event is March 19 and the artists will share the history of the building as well as some of their newest creations, including several books and animated cartoons.

While many are surprised to hear that Sorokina and Shaplyko actually live in their meticulously decorated home, they explain that one's environment is crucial to what they say people should strive for everyday: happiness and miracles.

"It's like you're going to a tailor and just making a suit which fits you — just you," Shaplyko says. Sorokina adds, "[It's] most important to feel happy. Doesn't matter where you live — organize your space around you to feel happy."

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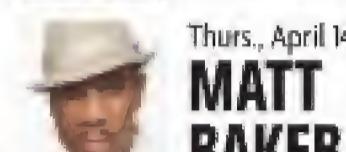


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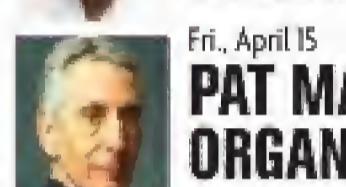
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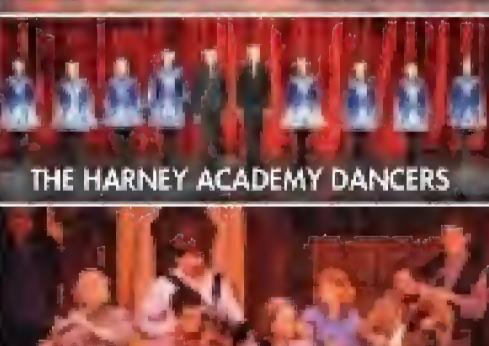


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Mary Elizabeth Winstead plays a woman who's been rescued/kidnapped by a stranger (John Goodman) who claims there's been an attack of some sort in "10 Cloverfield Lane." **PARAMOUNT PICTURES**



wknd

THE FUN STARTS HERE

Winstead: Horror is great for female roles

The "10 Cloverfield Lane" star says the new thriller avoids a lot of pesky gender traps.

MATT PRIGGE
@mattprigge
matt.prigge@melbourne.com

Mary Elizabeth Winstead knows horror: The actress got her start in "Final Destination 3" and "Black Christmas" before segueing into "Death Proof" and "Scott Pilgrim vs. the World." She returns, somewhat, to the genre with "10 Cloverfield Lane," which, yes, is a semi-sequel to 2008's alien invasion hit "Cloverfield." But for most of its length it's a psychological thriller set in a bunker.

This is a mix of many genres, but it's also partly a horror film. It's interesting that that's a genre that has always embraced female leads. I would get the question a lot: "Why do you do horror films?" It's like, "Where else do you see kickass female heroines other than in genre films?" Of course, now we have "Divergent" and those films. But in terms of how long I've been working, if you're going to find a really great lead role where you get to do

a lot of things and run through a range of emotions and you're not a big star, horror is kind of the place for you. When I started, they welcomed me with open arms.

But horror films aren't always exactly feminist. Sometimes female leads are abused or tortured.

When I do those films I've always try to not be exploited in any way, or play characters that go against anything I have within me in terms of my feminist nature. This was a script when I read it, I knew immediately it was something I could take on. There were a couple of things in the ["10 Cloverfield Lane"] script that

director, I realized he was someone looking at the story from her perspective. He's not looking at it like she's this girl in peril. He's seeing himself in her as a person. She's an every person. She's not a damsel in distress. She's an anybody in distress. She's behaving in a way any of us would, as opposed to a certain type of woman.

It avoids things like sexualizing her or dwelling on when John Goodman's character, Howard, gets rough with her. There were a couple of times when I thought, "I hope we don't go too far with Howard and how he treats Michelle [her character]." I didn't want to feel like we were being entertained by her being tortured or treated badly. This movie really avoids that. It's done in a way that's elevated and doesn't fall into those traps.



GETTY IMAGES



Mary Elizabeth Winstead perfects the art of the suspicious side-eye in "10 Cloverfield Lane." **PARAMOUNT PICTURES**

"10 Cloverfield Lane"

Director: Dan Trachtenberg
Stars: Mary Elizabeth Winstead, John Goodman
Rating: PG-13

There are twists aplenty in the semi-sequel to 2008's found footage alien invasion romp "Cloverfield," but the best is that it's not another "Cloverfield." Confidently told in

actual, thoughtfully selected shots and crackerjack editing, it's just about everything else: a kidnapping saga, a prison break picture, a post-apocalyptic grinder, a chamber dramedy and, most amazing of all, an actor's showcase.

Mary Elizabeth Winstead is one of only three main on-screen characters, playing a woman who wakes up from a nasty car accident in a lovingly decked-out underground

bunker. Its owner (John Goodman) claims there's been a mysterious massive attack, but even if he's on the level he's still a powder keg ready to explode — an uneasy nut who can't serve spaghetti without making things uncomfortable.

Winstead's revelatory turn is one of precise containment, trying to hide her mistrust from her savior/captor through frozen body language but communicating her intelligence to us through serious side-eye. The filmmaking follows suit. Confidently directed by first-timer Dan Trachtenberg, it's a finely calibrated shape-shifter that isn't just about getting to the next hairpin turn. It's about staying in the moment, which is usually thick with tension. It doesn't need the word "Cloverfield" to work the hell out of the audience. **MATT PRIGGE**

"The Brothers Grimsby"

Director: Louis Leterrier
Stars: Sacha Baron Cohen, Mark Strong
Rating: R

When Sacha Baron Cohen does a gag in which, let's say, Mark Strong is splattered with elephant semen, is it just a gag about Mark Strong being splattered with elephant semen?

Usually there's more to a Cohen joke than just yuks. The fearless, Cambridge-educated comic has made a career out of pretending to play to the lowest common denominator while working an agenda of sly progressiveness. "The Brothers Grimsby" is the first of his films that often — though definitely not always — seems it's only about going for big, usually



Sacha Baron Cohen joins professional movie villain Mark Strong ("Sherlock Holmes," "Robin Hood") in a send-up of Bond action movies. **Sony**

gross-out laughs.

"Grimsby" is also the first Cohen that's easy to imagine starring just about anyone else. The idea is a broad one: Take a Bond pastiche and insert an idiot. And so Strong's elegant MI6 bruiser Sebastian Butcher is paired with his long-lost brother, Cohen's Nobby, a Northern England hooligan and welfare-grifter with 11 kids and a couple grandkids, one named Django Unchained.

That we know Cohen is a smart man who can speak

eloquently about oppression and bigotry makes it easy to defend "Grimsby," even at its dumbest. The gay jokes — notably Nobby sucking poison from his bro's scrotum — may seem indistinguishable from mere gay panic. But the fact that the body part is actually shown does subtly (if you will) suggest Cohen's still a progressive trying to make the right people squirm. Look hard and the very dumb "Grimsby" is smart, and not just for a movie with a parade of pachyderm peens. **MP**



Cate Blanchett is one of Christian Bale's many lady friends in Terrence Malick's "Knight of Cups." **BROAD GREEN PICTURES**

"Knight of Cups"

Director: Terrence Malick
Stars: Christian Bale, Natalie Portman
Rating: R

With "Knight of Cups," Terrence Malick has made a two-hour montage coated in nonstop classical music and flowery narration delivered in

hushed tones. In other words, it's a Terrence Malick movie. These used to be rare: The director spent 20 years lying low between 1978's "Days of Heaven" and 1998's "The Thin Red Line." Now they're everywhere; he has at least three more en route. And so we may be oversaturated with Malicks that look and feel the same but still are unlike

anyone else's.

"Cups" may be the one that causes fair-weather fans to jump ship, in part because it follows a moldy type. Christian Bale is a brooding Hollywood player wrestling with an empty life, douchey friends and scores of girlfriends.

We've seen this guy before — so, so, so many times — but we've never seen him quite like this. Even if his agonies are old-hat, Malick has a way of making the familiar seem rich and strange, presenting L.A. (and at one point, Vegas) as though seen for the first time. There's not a single shot that stays still, each quick cut flowing into each other to create a sensory overload. The least of Malick's movies, it's still a rapturous wonder worth digging into. **MP**

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Beyond Backstreet



This Backstreet Boy is up to something new. KADIC INC.

Nick Carter's solo career has him feeling "All American."

EMILY WRIGHT
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Before kicking off his tour to support his new solo album "All American" last month, boy bander Nick Carter dishes on what fans can expect from his shows, his growing family and the things that help him unwind when he's out of the spotlight.

You've been a very busy guy for the last few years between the most recent Backstreet Boys tour, getting married and "Dancing with the Stars." Where did you find time to record "All American" and what has gone into the process prepping for this tour? Well, it was pretty hard to find time to do "All American" but we were able to nail it within really about two-and-a-half, three weeks. ... That's just because, honestly, when it comes to being creative for me, it's not something that I want to overthink too much. I just want to let it flow and kind of come out and you know, do

what it wants to do as an artist.

I have some guidelines of what I want to accomplish during the show, and that No. 1 is that all the fans are satisfied. You're going to hear a lot of Backstreet Boys music, you're going to hear a lot of my solo music — a nice mixture of the two.

Is it going to be hard for you going out on the road again alone without the rest of the group?

Getting ready to do this without the guys is not a scary thing, it's something that I'm prepared for. We all individually grow and as a group, we allow each other to go out and individually do things.

How hard is it going to be for you to be out on the road while your wife is expecting?

Very hard. Literally, I'm away for four weeks, and then right when I get home it's like, about to have a baby. It's a little scary to be away, but if something happens, I'm just going to jump on a plane and head home.

How important is it for you personally to

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find time in your life to unwind and how do you do that?

When I'm home, I love playing video games. I love working out and playing sports, watching movies. ... I try to go to the gym as much as I can and try to do normal stuff. ... It's really strange to say that, but you know, writing movies and doing an album and going on the road, all those ways — those are ways for me to unwind, but then obviously there's the more domestic stuff I do as well.

For the folks in Boston who want to know: Is there anything you have to do when you come here on tour?

Well, in Boston, if I get a chance I like to go down to the harbor and literally have the best lobster ever [at Legal Sea Foods]. And I have to go to a Celtics game, because I'm a Celtics fan.

Brain game



Logic's "The Incredible True Story" features spacey album art you've got to see to believe. RYAN JAY

Logic says he almost went by the name Psychological. "My best friend [Big Lenbo] gave me the name Logic because for a while I was going with Psychological, but that's a f—ing horrible rap name," the 26-year-old rapper laughs.

"He just started calling me Logic for short. Like who was ever going to call me that?"

Born Sir Robert Bryson Hall II, the rapper released his sophomore studio album, "The Incredible True Story," in November and is now on a world tour with many of the space-bound characters depicted in the cover art. He calls us after a nap on his bus in Toronto to talk about Rubik cubes, "Futurama" and his budget-blowing trip to Hawaii.

Speed demon

Logic is a self-described freak when it comes to solving a puzzle or beating that next level on a game. However, a good old fashioned Rubik's Cube is what keeps Logic on his toes — one even showed up in his album art by Sam Spratt.

"Someone got me [a Rubik's Cube] as a present in 2014 on Thanksgiving," he explains. "I stayed up and taught myself how to solve it within 16 hours. I looked up all the algorithms and tutorials

until I could do it. And then I learned the faster way and the easier way and the shortcut way. I memorized all the tricks and patterns."

Now Logic can solve a standard Rubik's Cube in 35-40 seconds, but says his personal best is 23.

"Currently I'm working on a mirror cube that a fan brought me. I knew I had to learn how to do it, and it took me about two and a half hours that first time," he tells us. "I'm a persistent motherf—."

15 tickets to paradise

To finish his second studio album, Logic decided to take a 15-person trip to Hawaii. He estimates it cost around \$100,000, a budget-busting excursion the rapper treated his crew and family to in order to achieve the real life "paradise" described in the album's narrative.

While "The Incredible True Story" is more of a space odyssey than a trip to a private beach, Logic says the actual flight inspired him as well.

"We flew to Hawaii and I have a huge fear of flying," he explains. "I had never flown for personal reasons. Everywhere I started flying — I took my first flight for a business reason, like shows or festivals or you have to go

to Europe for whatever. For this trip, I face my fears and white-knuckle through it."

Cartoon cravings

Logic says he grew up watching anime and bounty hunter series, "Cowboy Bebop," inspired him to make an album about space. In a similar vein, the rapper is a huge fan of Matt Groening's "Futurama" and even named his corgi after Philip J. Fry.

But he can't quite pinpoint a favorite episode. "It's so extensive and there are so many great ones," he muses. "There's one in season five where Professor Farnsworth has a parallel universe inside a box. They're all looking at these bizarre versions of themselves and someone says, 'It's like that drug trip I saw in that movie while I was on a drug trip,' and I thought that writing was so smart and so funny. It's like almost every season is a completely different show." RACHEL RACKA

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Why less swiping means better dates

All this swiping and searching can sometimes leave you feeling confused about your love life. You're going on dates, but they're all a bust, and you're not sure where things are going wrong. A lot of singles find themselves feeling lost in the chaos — my clients often ask, "How can I find better matches online?"

The truth: Your behaviors on a dating app or site will reflect your results. If you're haphazardly swiping while you're bored, you're probably not going to get matches that excite you. Here's how to get more meaningful matches:

You can swipe too much. The average Tinder user spends 90 minutes a day reviewing matches. A group of psychologists at Northwestern University did a study on online dating and found that the longer you search, the more judgmental you become. Let's be real — when you're judgmental, you're not being open to the possibility

LAURIE DAVIS

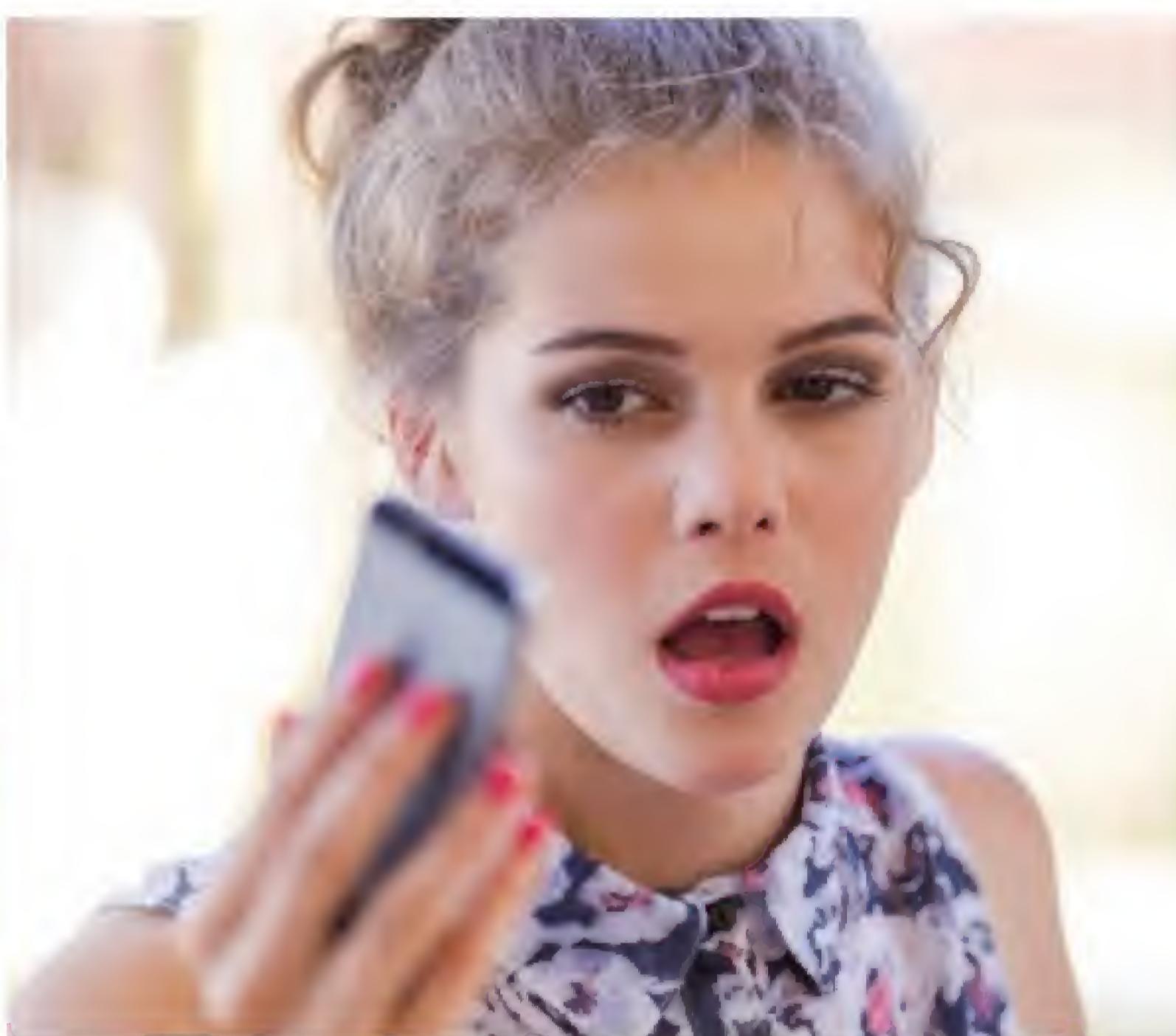
Single and Swiping

Laurie Davis is the founder of eFlirt, an online dating concierge service, and the best-selling author of "Love @ First Click: The Ultimate Guide to Online Dating."



of meeting someone great. At eFlirt, we find that keeping your search sessions short is a flirt-changer and recommend searching for no longer than 20 to 30 minutes each day.

Faster isn't better. Once you've cut down your search time, the next thing you want to do is slow down your swipe time. You're probably wondering, "How am I going to meet someone if I'm getting fewer mutual matches?" Swiping fast means



Being more selective means you'll end up on dates with more meaningful people. ALL PHOTOS iSTOCK

you're focused on quantity, while going slow will generate the quality you're seeking.

If you think "maybe," say yes. I watch people fall in love every day. Nearly all of my former clients who are now in relationships fell for a "maybe." It wasn't always the person with the hottest profile photos or witty self-descriptions. In fact, usually their initial response to their future significant other's profile was something like, "I don't know about him. Are you sure?" Here's the bottom line: If you see a match and aren't sure about him or her, swipe right. Until you meet in person, you truly won't know who will turn out to be awesome ... and who won't be.

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Andrew Rannells, left, and Alex Karpovsky on "Girls." CRAIG BLANKENHORN/HBO

Alex Karpovsky: Always the good guy

Someone needs to cut Ray on "Girls" a break.

RACHEL RACZKA
rachelraczka@me.com

Alex Karpovsky's begrudgingly sentimental Ray Ploshansky is the no frills coffee-slinging character on "Girls," who found himself talking the husband-to-be of the girl he loves out of ditching the wedding in this season's premiere. The 40-year-old Newton native calls us from L.A. just as Season 5 heats up. We chat about when the HBO series goes off-script and whether or not Ray is still in love with Marnie.

Is Ray the only true romantic of this show? I think actually think Marnie is a romantic, too. But Ray, he has some idea in his mind and the notion of Marnie fueled that specific idea, but that idea is very narrow with a crumbly foundation.

So is he really in love with Marnie (Allison Williams)? In that first episode, we watch him talk Desi back into getting married. I think in many ways he sees [her] as an outcast — someone who has been

ostracized to some degree and is trying very desperately to rectify her situation. Being an outsider himself, he sees her as having determination and has weird respect. And I think there's a physical component. Marnie is the girl he was never able to get in high school and he's been negotiating his past in many ways. It gives him a source of shallow fulfillment and victory to an extent.

Elijah starts working at Ray's coffee shop and that relationship has become one of our favorites of the season. What's it been like filming with Andrew Rannells?

He's one of my favorite characters on the show and I've been hoping to have more scenes with him. As a performer, I think Andrew is just an incredible improviser and we'll do a little on the show and it's fun and wacky.

Is a large portion of "Girls" improvised? It's hard to put a number on it and a lot of it is rooted in how well the day is going. If we're making good time, we've earned a little play time and can goof around, but the show is shot in the city so when

it's summer and hot, people have short fuses when cars and trucks are slowing us down. We'll like to play around with Lena if we have some extra time though.

What's the plan with Ray this season? He's on Community Board, he's single, he's expanded the coffee shop.

Over the years, Ray's had different forums and outlets to unleash his anger, ideologies and misguided convictions. In Season 4, he's expressing himself through politics, and Season 5, he's getting that part of his personality across as a small business owner.

Ray might be the oldest friend in this friend group — do you think that's shaped him at all? I think it's put some of his more extreme and unsavory characteristics in a sharper perspective. He's already cynical and judgmental and when he interacts with people that are 10 years younger than him, those things are brought more into focus to a degree and he can become more self-aware. It's mostly a step toward growth.

"Girls" airs on HBO, Sunday at 10 p.m.

Pats will adjust to free agency field

New England is looking at picking up the wide receiver scraps.

 MATT BURKE
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matthew.burke@metroweekend.us

"Real American" could very well be played just as much as "I Don't Wanna Lose Your Love Tonight" on the Gillette Stadium PA system this season if the Patriots are to sign Chris Hogan away from the Buffalo Bills.

Hulk Hogan's theme song has a cult following, just as much as Buffalo's seemingly underutilized slot man does and the Patriots are said to be interested in acquiring the 27-year-old. Hogan had 36 receptions this past season and had 41 the year prior.

His career numbers don't stand out in the least, but Hogan has shown flashes of good-



The Patriots may attempt to pry Chris Hogan away from Buffalo. GETTY IMAGES

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Mohammad Sanu (Falcons) went elsewhere. Forte would have given the Pats a great pass-catching threat out of the backfield and Sanu would have given Tom Brady that outside threat that he's been missing for years now. But the Patriots are the best organization in the league at adapting, both during the season and in the offseason.

If the Pats' best option at this stage of free agency is to bring in Hogan, who is basically Julian Edelman and Danny Amendola lite, they will go ahead and do so and adjust their offense accordingly. If they bring in 35-year-old Anquan Boldin, who is a physical outside threat, they will adjust their offense accordingly.

NFL Network's Rand Getlin reported this week that Boldin "wants to play for a team that can compete at the highest level" and that it's "important to him."

ness — particularly against the Patriots. He had a season-high 95 yards receiving against

the Pats in November of last year and had six grabs for 72 yards and a touchdown in an Octo-

ber 2014 game against New England.

The Patriots again weren't players in the

early, headline-stealing phase of free agency as top offensive players like Matt Forte (Jets) and

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GRONK AIN'T NO DUMMY WHEN IT COMES TO HIS SELF-WORTH IN NFL

Rob Gronkowski is a professional football player. But he's also a businessman. He so subtly reminded us of that on Monday night.

After the New England Patriots picked up the option to keep Gronkowski in New England through 2019, the tight end went to Twitter and said, "If ya think about it that Option pick up basically equals pay cut the next 4 seasons... (thinking-face emoji). I don't work hard for those reasons. Haha (weightlifting emoji; football emoji)."

Now, the most dangerous thing one could do in this situation is to judge the man on 140 characters or less. So to read Gronkowski's tweet and immediately come to the conclusion that he's unhappy or that he's getting ready to hold out is absurd, and quite frankly, borderline psychotic.

The first thing you should do is look into the actual contract itself, and what the Patriots actually did on Monday.

Gronkowski signed a six-year, \$54 million extension before the 2012 season. It was an add-on to his rookie contract, which was in effect through the 2013 season. On Monday, the Patriots picked up his option bonus, which essentially picked up the final four years of the six-year contract, keeping him in New England through the 2019 season.

They had to pick up this option before NFL free agency began on Wednesday. Obviously, it was a no-brainer. But

DANNY PICARD

OPINION

"The Danny Picard Show" airs every weekday at DannyPicard.com. Danny can also be heard on WEEI 93.7 FM. @dannypicard



make no mistake about it, that option was an advantage for the team, as is the money they will be paying Gronkowski the next four seasons.

In 2016, the NFL salary cap will be set at about \$155 million. That's nearly a \$12 million increase from last year's salary cap. And since 2012 — the year Gronkowski signed his extension — the salary cap has increased by nearly \$35 million.

It's resulted in some big money being spent during the early stages of this year's free agency period. Look no further than Brock Osweiler's four-year, \$72 million deal (\$37 million guaranteed) with the Houston Texans. Granted, quarterbacks

are the highest-paid players in the league. But Osweiler has never even played a full NFL season, spending most of the last four years as Peyton Manning's backup. In fact, while Osweiler's 10 touchdown passes in eight games in 2015 were a career high, Gronkowski has only finished one season with less than 10 touchdown receptions, in six years as an NFL tight end.

If you want to compare Gronkowski's contract in a more realistic light, you can do so with 26-year-old tight end Dwayne Allen, who just re-upped with the Colts on a four-year, \$30 million deal. Allen finished last season with only 16 receptions for 109 yards and one touchdown in 13 games. In his career, Allen has only 91 receptions, 1,045 yards receiving, and 13 touchdowns.

Gronkowski turns 27 in May. He finished last season with 72 receptions for 1,176 yards and 11 touchdowns. So, yes, Gronkowski had more receiving yards last year than Allen has in his entire career. In fact, Gronkowski has already had three seasons where he's caught for more yards in each single season than Allen has in his career. And in case you're looking to compare their career stats, Gronkowski has 380 receptions, 5,555 yards receiving, and 65 touchdowns.

So it's safe to say that, in Gronkowski's perfect world, his average annual salary isn't anywhere close to someone like Allen — if we're strictly compar-



Gronk, right, is no fool. He knows exactly how much he's worth. GETTY IMAGES

ing contracts at the tight end position. Heck, you could make the argument that Gronkowski should be one of the highest paid players in the entire league. And if that thought is going through my mind, you can only imagine what's going on in Gronkowski's head.

That's where we get back to that tweet. As playful as it was — and ultimately, it was playful — Gronkowski doesn't just throw out the words "pay cut"

on social media without some type of meaning behind it. He may seem like a big goof when the microphones are in his face or when he's dancing like a maniac on the Gronk Cruise. But he's no dummy. And he has a lot of smart people in his corner.

The smartest is probably his agent, Drew Rosenhaus, who isn't shy about telling people how he tried to fight another agent who was also trying to represent Gronkowski out of

college. The other agent backed down, according to Rosenhaus, and here we are.

If you think the fight is going to stop there, you're nuts. It might not continue in the form of a hold out this year, but if Gronkowski continues to put up ridiculous numbers, both he and Rosenhaus absolutely understand that the next punch is theirs to throw.

He reminded us of that on Monday night.

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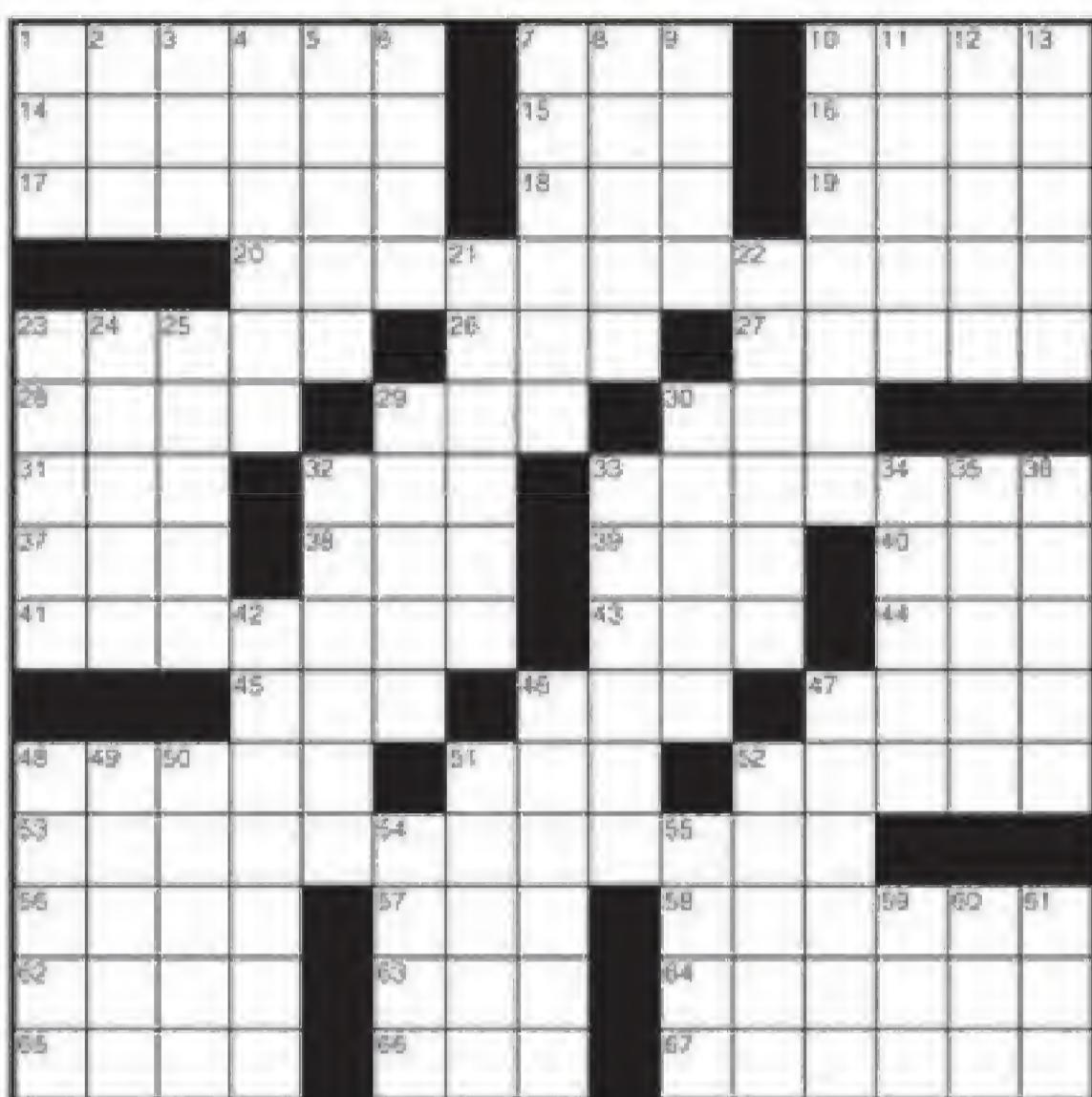
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Taurus You've got pizzazz and charm that will keep people coming back for more. Your dedication will earn you trust and respect. A mental or physical challenge will inspire you.



Gemini What you have to offer will make a difference to someone in need. Improve your lifestyle by doing what makes you happy. A risky investment is best avoided.



Cancer Show off in order to boost your popularity. Your suggestions will impress someone with clout. Talks and travel will lead to knowledge and a valuable experience.



Leo A simple plan will far exceed an elaborate, costly event that would make you look like a showoff. A romantic evening for two or a quiet family gathering will suffice.



Virgo Discuss your plans with a loved one and set up a goal to work toward. Physical and emotional self-improvements can be made. Learn something new.



Libra Don't let uncertainty create a problem. Ask questions until you are satisfied that you are making the right choice. You'll feel better about what you accomplished.



Scorpio Ask for help if you need it. Your ideas are sound, and what others can offer will help expedite your efforts and plans. Trust in yourself.



Sagittarius Don't underestimate anyone who challenges you. Don't offer personal information or it will be used against you. Stay focused on what you need to do.



Capricorn Do something different. Interact with people from different walks of life. The information you gather and ideas you generate will encourage a new beginning.



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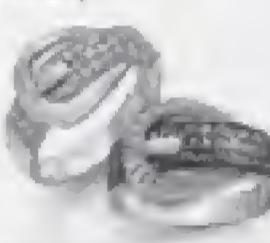
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FOR \$30**

SELECT BRAS

Reg. \$33-\$42 ea.
From Maidenform.
(★ WebID 750733).
Ball® & more.
Also, panties.
Special 6 for \$30.
Reg. \$10-\$12 ea.



3-DAY SPECIALS! FRI-SUN DURING OUR 5-DAY SUPER SALE

**MACY'S CARD/SAVINGS
PASS DISCOUNTS DO NOT
APPLY TO SPECIALS.**

SPECIAL

59.99

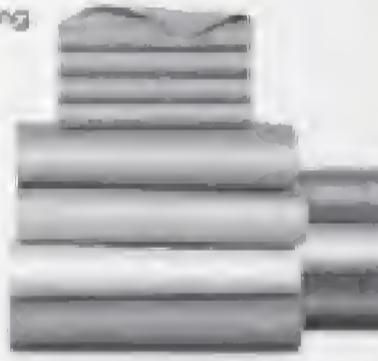
**ALL 7-PC.
COMFORTER
SETS**
Reg. \$200-\$240.
Only at Macy's.
Queen or king.
Shown: Kira.
★ WebID
1926805.



SPECIAL 39.99

6-PC. SHEET SET

Reg. \$150-\$170. Only at Macy's.
450-thread count. Egyptian cotton with
4 pillowcases.
Queen or king.
Shown: Brentford.
★ WebID
1955375.
Full also on
special.



VISIT OUR NEW CLEARANCE DEPARTMENTS FOR GREAT BARGAINS EVERY DAY

LAST ACT!

**60%-85% OFF APPAREL
SELECTIONS
FOR HIM & HER.**
THE PRICE YOU SEE IS THE PRICE YOU PAY.
PRICES SO LOW, NO NEED TO USE A COUPON! EXTRA DISCOUNTS DO NOT APPLY.

**OR, TAKE AN EXTRA 10%-25% OFF² WHEN YOU USE YOUR MACY'S CARD
OR SAVINGS PASS DURING OUR 5-DAY SUPER SALE. tExclusions apply, see pass.**

WOW! PASS EXTRA 25% OFF

**SELECT SALE AND
CLEARANCE CLOTHING
PLUS JEWELRY**

EXTRA 20% OFF SELECT SALE AND CLEARANCE WATCHES & HOME ITEMS

EXTRA 10% OFF SELECT SALE AND CLEARANCE ELECTRICALS & ELECTRONICS, FURNITURE, RUGS AND MATTRESSES

MACY'S.COM PROMO CODE: FIVE EXCLUSIONS MAY DIFFER ON MACY'S.COM

Excludes ALL: cosmetics/fragrances, Deals of the Day, Backstage/web exclusives, men's store electric, Everyday Values (EDV), Last Act, Macy's Backstage, specials, super boys, All-Clad, Breville, Dyson, Fable, Frye, Hush Puppies, Jack Spade, Kate Spade, KitchenAid Pro Line, Le Creuset, Lululemon, Marc Jacobs, Michele watches, New Era, Nike on Field, Sam Edelman, Samsung watches, Shin, Stuart Weitzman, The North Face, Theory, Tumi, Vitamin, Waclol, Wittner, athletic clothing, shoes & accessories, Dallas Cowboys merchandise, designer jewelry, gift cards, jewelry trunk shows, previous purchases, select licensed dept., services, special orders, special purchases, tech watches; PLUS, ONLINE ONLY: baby gear, kids' shoes, Allen Edmonds, Birkenstock, Harley, Johnston & Murphy, Merrell, RVCA, Tommy Bahama. Cannot be combined with any savings pass/coupon, extra discount or credit offer except opening a new Macy's account. Extra savings % applied to reduced prices. EXTRA SAVINGS % APPLIED TO REDUCED PRICES.

★macy's

VALID 3/9-
3/13/2016



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SPECIAL 60% OFF

SELECTIONS FROM TAG & TRAVEL
Special 63.99-135.99.
Reg. \$160-\$340.

Tag Coronado
5-pc. spinner set.
★ WebID
2431267.



**SPECIAL 30%
+ EXTRA**

**20% OFF
KEURIG**

Special
79.99-159.99.
Reg. 149.99-289.99.
Shown: #K250.
★ WebID
2602960.



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FREE SHIPPING ONLINE & FREE RETURNS FREE SHIPPING WITH \$99 PURCHASE. U.S. ONLY. EXCLUSIONS APPLY; SEE MACYS.COM/FREERETURNS

TEXT "CPN" TO 62297 TO GET COUPONS, SALES ALERTS & MORE! Max 3 messages. Msg & data rates may apply. By texting CPN from my mobile number, I agree to receive automated marketing SMS/MMS messages from Macy's to this number. Consent is not required to make a purchase. Text STOP to 62297 to cancel. Text HELP to 62297 for help. Terms & conditions at macy's.com/mobilehelp Privacy practices at macy's.com/privacy

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Fine jewelry specials are available only in stores that carry fine jewelry.

REG. & ORIG. PRICES ARE OFFERING PRICES & SAVINGS MAY NOT BE BASED ON ACTUAL SALES. SOME ORIG. PRICES NOT IN EFFECT DURING THE PAST 90 DAYS. 5-DAY SUPER SALE PRICES IN EFFECT NOW-3/13/2016. *Intermediate price reductions may have been taken. ¹All carat weights are approx; variance may be .05 carat. Jewelry photos may be enlarged or enhanced to show detail. Fine jewelry at select stores; log on to macy's.com for locations. Almost all gemstones & black diamonds have been treated to enhance their beauty & require special care; log on to macy's.com/gemstones or ask your sales professional. Extra savings taken off already-reduced prices; ²special* prices reflect extra savings. Advertised merchandise may not be carried at your local Macy's & selection may vary by store. Specials are available while supplies last. Prices & merchandise may differ at macy's.com. Electrics & luggage carry mfr's warranties; to see a mfr's warranty at no charge before purchasing, visit a store or write to: Macy's Warranty Dept., PO Box 1026 Maryland Heights, MO 63043, attn: Consumer Warranties, H6020411.



OPEN A MACY'S ACCOUNT FOR EXTRA 20% SAVINGS THE FIRST 2 DAYS, UP TO \$100, WITH MORE REWARDS TO COME. Macy's credit card is available subject to credit approval; new account savings valid the day your account is opened and the next day; excludes services, selected licensed departments, gift cards, restaurants, gourmet food & wine. The new account savings are limited to a total of \$100; application must qualify for immediate approval to receive extra savings; employees not eligible.

Boston Weekend, March 11-13, 2016